# Oregon Chapter American Fisheries society

# Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee 2014-15 Work plan

# Submitted by Committee Co-Chairs Michael Harte and Matt Damiano

# Approved by ExCom, 9 Sept 2014

# Mission of Oregon AFS:

*To improve the conservation and sustainability of Oregon fishery resources and their aquatic ecosystems for long‐term public benefit by advancing science, education and public discourse concerning fisheries and aquatic science and by promoting the development of fisheries professionals.*

# Objectives of Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee

The Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee is responsible for advocating the protection and

restoration of marine environments and their inhabitants in Oregon, promoting the advancement

of techniques to protect and restore marine species and habitats, documenting fisheries problems

in Oregon's marine waters, and developing strategies for their solution. Its concerns include, but

are not limited to: marine fisheries management, bycatch in commercial and recreational

fisheries, population status of marine species and their assessment, climate-related issues, marine

reserves, essential fish habitat, ocean aquaculture, and rebuilding marine fish stocks in Oregon’s

ocean, bays, and intertidal areas. The Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee:

1. Encourages implementation and improvement of existing regulations and activities that protect Oregon’s natural marine environments and their inhabitants.
2. Works to ensure adequate consideration of fishery resources by public entities whose actions affect Oregon’s marine fisheries.
3. Reviews and comments on plans, policies, criteria, and rules affecting marine species.
4. Promotes public awareness of the importance of functional marine ecosystems and the effects of anthropogenic impacts.
5. Acts as a liaison with similar committees of the Western Division and Society.
6. Conducts periodic marine fisheries workshops at annual meetings.
7. Submits a written report of committee activities to the External Director every six months in November and April.
8. Submits annual work plan and budget to the External Director by June 1st. The Marine Habitat and Ecology Committee Chair prepares these materials.
9. Conducts technical session at chapter annual meetings by convening and inviting relevant speakers.

**2014-2015 Work Plan**

1. Facilitate development of and review ORAFS white paper on marine reserves (MR) (objective 1; originally drafted in 2002) updating it to address recent Oregon marine reserve developments and potentially expand the position paper to include ORAFS’s position on incorporating habitat and ecological considerations into state marine spatial planning initiatives (objective 1).
2. Explore interest in developing a position paper on the role of ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) in Oregon’s state fisheries and in federal regional fisheries management (objective 1).
3. Be prepared to participate and comment on Oregon’s marine spatial planning (MSP) processes administered by the Oregon’s Department of Land, Conservation and Development and MR planning and monitoring and assessment processes administered by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (objectives 2,3).
4. Liaise with similar committees of the Western Division and parent society on MSP, EBFM and MR matters.
5. Begin planning process for involvement of marine committee in 2015 National Meeting in Portland (objective 5).
6. Begin work with ORAFS on potential cooperation or participation in the 2016 Western Groundfish Meeting, which will come to Oregon in that year (objective 5 with an external group).

**Budget request for 2014-15**

None